

## THE DANGER OF DOLLAR WHEAT

**Wheat Driving Out the Cattle. Alberta May yet Import Her own Beef, says P. Burns.**

Calgary, Aug. 11.—P. Burns sounds a message of warning to the farmers and ranchers of Alberta. It is the story of the cattle passing away and is of interest to all the people of the west.

And this is the burden of the warning, "Take heed, ere it be too late, for in three years, perhaps in two years, Alberta will be compelled to import its beef for local consumption. Importing beef into Alberta will mean

A few years ago Alberta was the source of immense herds of cattle. There were then many ranching companies, each shipping annually from one to four thousand head of cattle. At the time, like today, there were two sources of demand—local consumption and foreign markets; but

When the population was small and a large proportion of the cattle was exported. Indeed, this province was considered a factor in supplying foreign markets.

no longer are the lumbering, swaying herds of branded cattle tramping over the prairies. A blade of grass has risen from the soil and made wheat

ing. In its splendor of gold wheat has banished the herds of cattle and has fenced grazing ranges. It has established a prosperous realm in which every farmer is its subject.

farmers are now selling their stock to make room for more wheat. There lies the danger of which Mr. Burns gives warning. If farmers continue to sell their breeding stock, Alberta will no longer be in a position to export cattle, it will no longer be in a position to supply the demands of some consumption; on the contrary, it will be forced to import beef from the rapidly increasing population. Mr. Burns has been in the cattle business for over a quarter of a century. Like Hon. Frank Oliver, he vividly recalls the burn of Red River.

He knows the cattle business from Alpha to Omega. He knows every pulchritude of the market. His accurate forecasting of conditions has brought him wealth. Withal, Mr. Burns has remained one of the people, because, while shrewd, he is generous, and while laboring for his own success, he has helped others to prosperity. In the interest of farmers, Mr.

turns say, "Keep your cows for breeding. We are today shipping cattle which should be kept at home. If stocks are thus depleted, in three years' time we will be forced to import beef into Alberta."

**Matter of Precaution.**  
Mr. Burne's warning by no means implies that farmers should return to the days of ranching, when the brand of a firm appeared on the flanks of ten thousand cattle. It is merely that they begin, or continue, stock raising systematically. "It is not wise," Mr. Burne says, "for a farmer to put all his land into wheat or corn crops." Even when a farmer possesses a rodent system to protect his

it may be that certain years the crop may fail. The farmer should then have something to fall back on, and nothing will provide the full measure of protection needed in those

Today," Mr. Burns says, "some farmers are so relieved of the trouble of carrying their cattle to market that they are willing to let me take them. They say, 'I am crowded out and want my land for grain.' This is a ridiculous statement when this country is full of grass. If a farmer keeps only a few cattle, he can be in a position to sell even two head a year, he would realize a handsome sum yearly. Now listen, what would that cost? The cattle graze all summer and can be carried through the winter months on straw and rough feed which would be lost. Some of the farmers are carrying cattle

Statistics corroborate Mr. Burns' statement. Despite greatly increased demands in Europe for beef cattle, despite a reported shortage of 800,000 head of cattle in the foreign output...

estimate made by provincial authorities of available cattle in Alberta for shipment to foreign markets in 1909 was 35,000 less than in 1906. It is an astonishing fact that last year, of 61,400 cattle shipped to Europe, 35 per cent were females, most of which should have been kept here for breeding.

A few figures in this connection may prove of interest. They show the cattle shipped export from this section of Canada during the past three years, with an estimate of the number available this year for foreign markets.

1966	74,733
1967	42,066
1968	61,819
1969, up to July 31, about	18,070
estimate of second half of 1969	22,000
total expected for 1969	40,000

These numbers together with the rapidly increasing demand for home







## Edmonton Daily Bulletin

Published every lawful afternoon by The Bulletin Company, Limited, at the Bulletin Building, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, 511, 513, 515, 517, 519, 521, 523, 525, 527, 529, 531, 533, 535, 537, 539, 541, 543, 545, 547, 549, 551, 553, 555, 557, 559, 561, 563, 565, 567, 569, 571, 573, 575, 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